

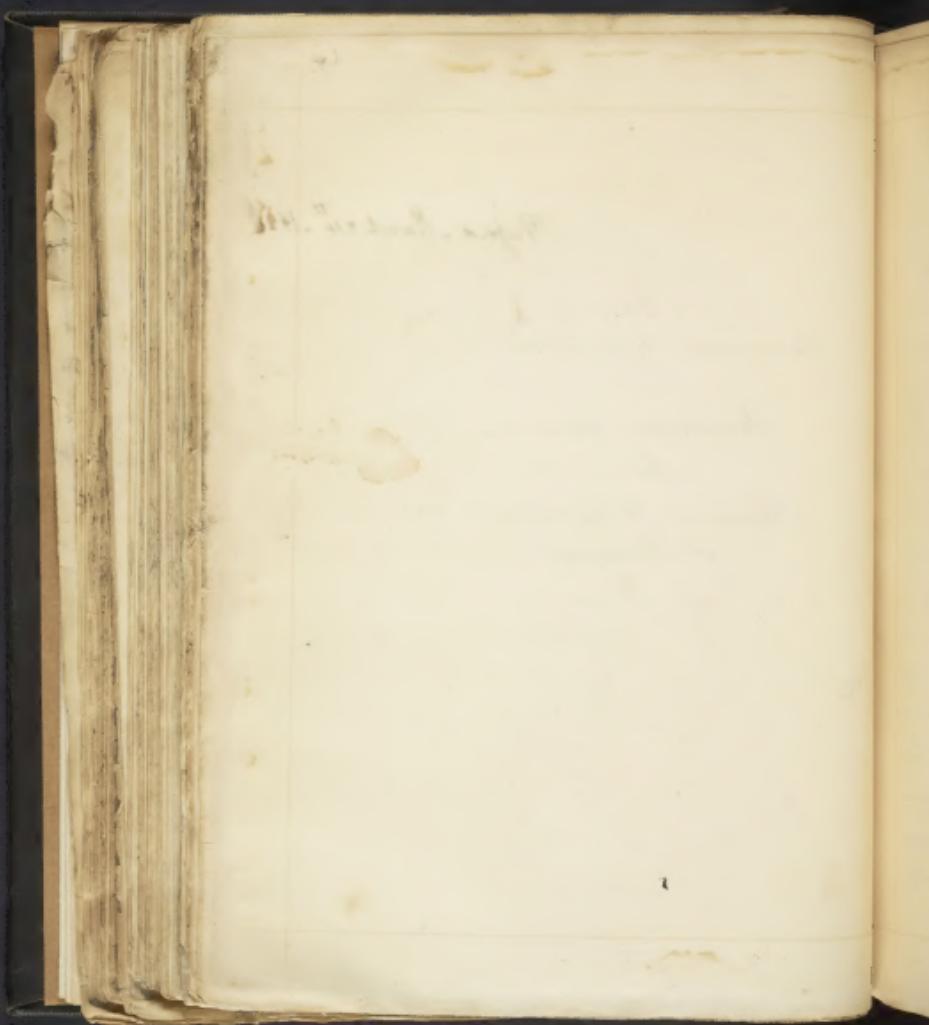
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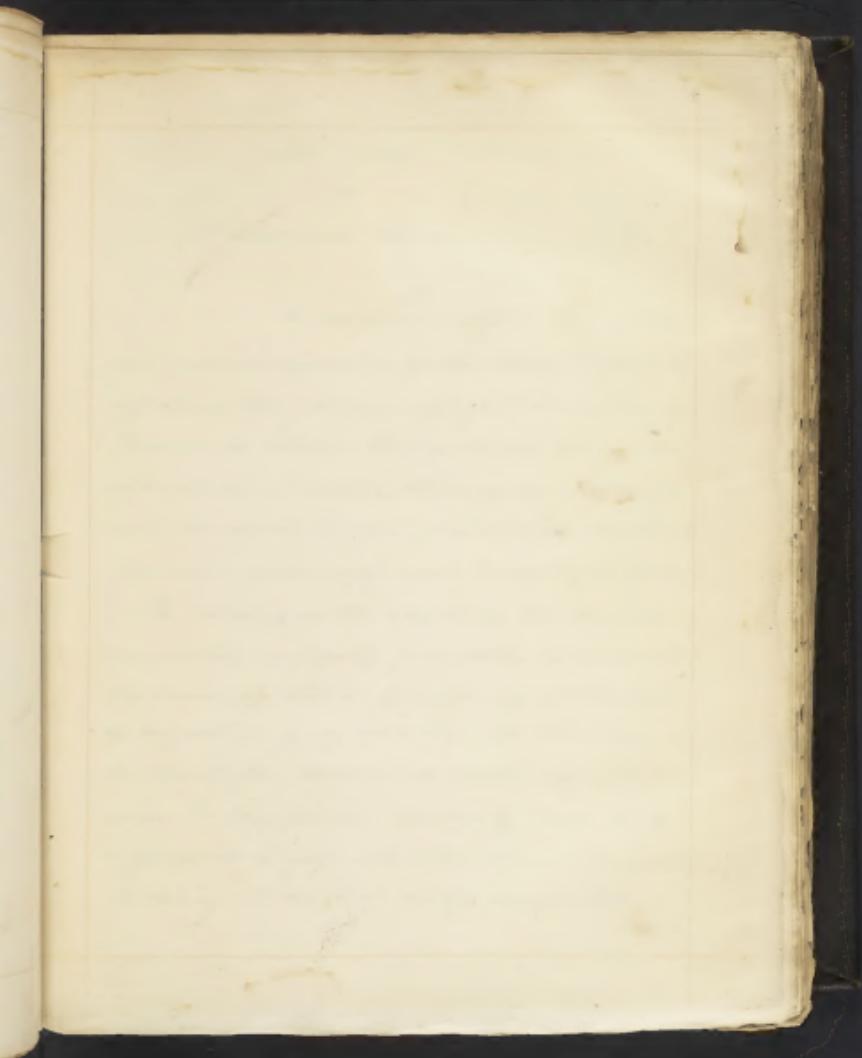
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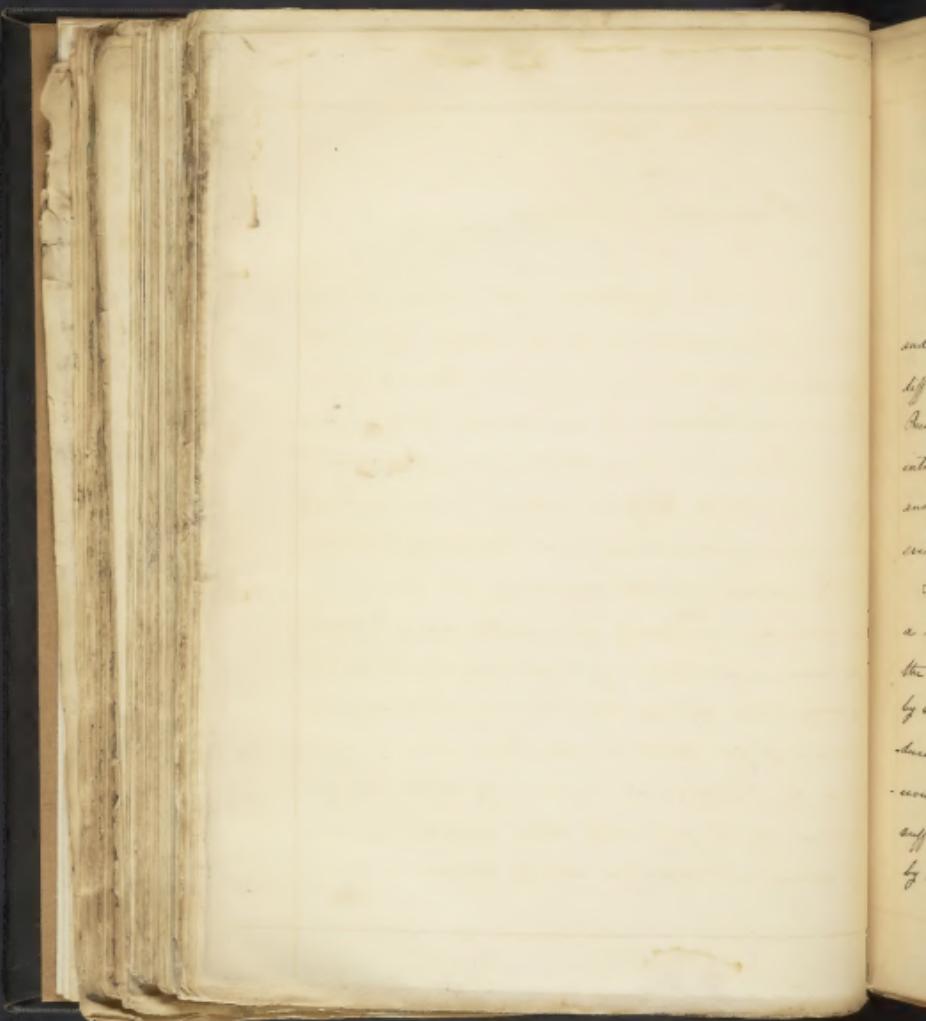
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Paper. March 24th. 1846

In
Inaugural Dissertation
on
Pneumonia biliosa.
By
Alexander W. Fenner, A.B.
of Virginia.





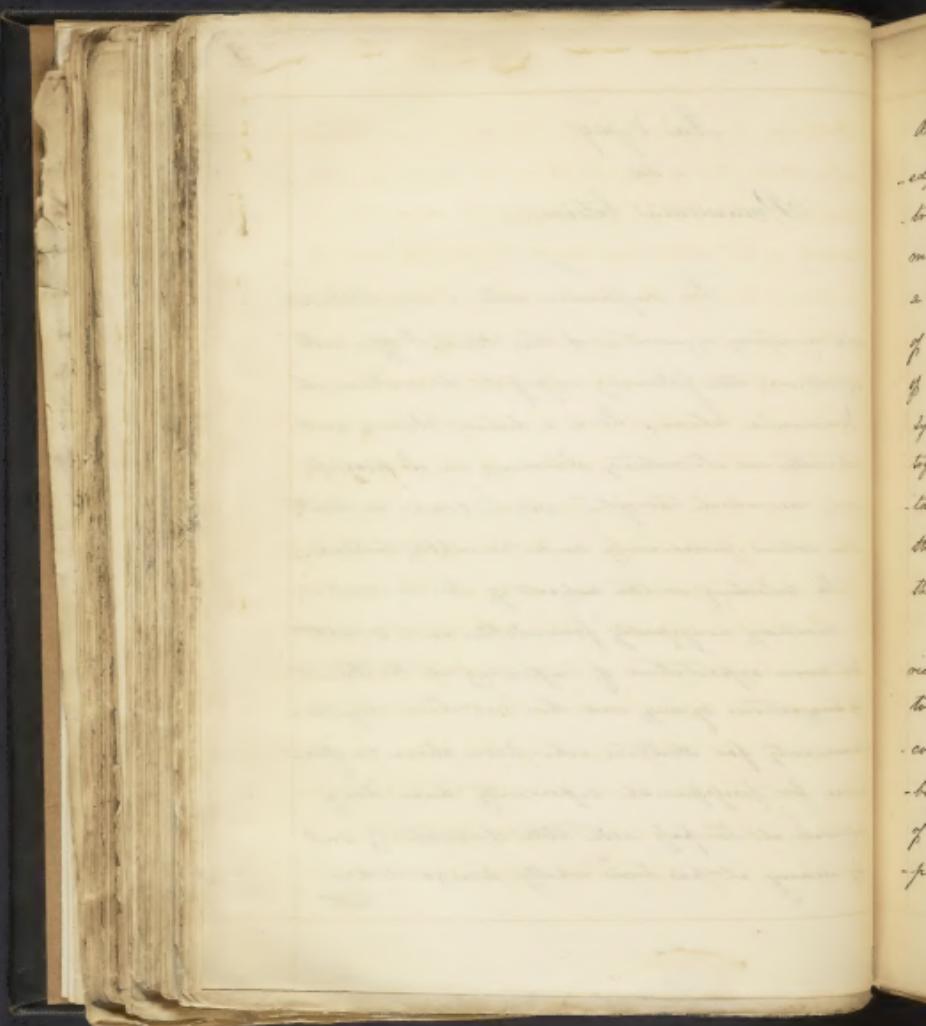


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An Essay,
on
Pneumonia biliosa. —

In compliance with a long established
and necessary acquisition of this School, I offer with
diffidence the following imperfect observations on
Pneumonia biliosa. It is a disease, obscure and
intricate in its nature, alarming in its progress,
and one which too often ends its course in death
even when judiciously and promptly treated.

In selecting as the subject of the Dissertation,
a malady, confessedly formidable and occult,
the vain expectation of improving its treatment
by suggestions of my own, has not been my in-
ducement; for Authors who have shone conspic-
uously for professional superiority, have long
subjected it to pop with little observation, and
by many it has been wholly disregarded —
but,



But my incentive in the selection was the know-
edge, that the subject stood in need of illus-
tration, and that it might be divested of
much of its intricacy and difficulty, even by
a description of the most striking characteristics
of the disease, as it prevails in different parts
of our extensive Country; by giving something of
systematic arrangement to the whole subject;
together with an enumeration of the most impor-
tant remedies advised by others as best suited to
the indications, and a proper explanation of
their Modus Operandi in removing the complaint.

I reflected moreover, that although my inexperi-
ence would prevent my making contributions
towards the cure, I should be enabled to ac-
complish the chief object of the day, by descri-
bmg the disease as it prevails in that section
of Virginia in which I reside, and where op-
portunities of observation have enabled me
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to give a more accurate delineation of its features,
together with a more correct view of its causes,
symptoms, and cure. —

When speaking of the treatment of this disease,
I shall find it necessary to refer to the prac-
tice of others; and although their opinions may
be opposite and discordant, and their modes
of practice very different; the course deduced from
them may nevertheless be correct; so as
much, as I shall present such plan of treat-
ment alone, as appears most consonant with
sound reasoning and a knowledge of the hu-
man system; and of all the remedies derived
from them, offer such only, as the most promi-
nent indications seem to require; and such
as are not incompatible with the patholog-
ical symptoms of the disease. —

The plan which I am about to offer will, I doubt
not be found deficient; but I hope it will
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be more as regards the manner in which it is written, than the remarks which it contains. And that it will be remembered by the learned individual under whose examination it must pass, that it is offered in conformity with the law of the University; and that the observations even of a Tyro in the Medic Art. (though roughly written) if correctly made, are not always unimportant. Since a comet, knowledge of disease like the present, occult, undefined, and complex in their nature, can only be acquired by consulting the contributions of many.

Of all the species of symphilitic, venemous, bilious fevers, ¹ may be no more the most dangerous, has been most neglected by the literati of the profession. And indeed the few accounts given of it by Mastellinius, are so descriptant and indistinct, that they tend rather to obscure than elucidate the subject.



This contrariety of opinions, has originated from various causes. From other diseases having been mistaken by physicians, for Pneumonia biliosa; on account of their mixing with symptoms of some other complaint, which they deemed characteristic of this. - This may have been every case of pleurisy where the sputa were thin and yellow, bilious pleurisy - Different and opposite opinions with respect to the proper treatment of this complaint, have arisen from erroneous impressions formed concerning its pathology. - These pathological errors have been taken up concerning pneumonia biliosa; from the various appearances which it has assumed when under the influence of different seasons or situations, and when diversified, by differences of climate and degree of temperature. Thus in cold climates, the inflammatory distemper is most apt to prevail, and the pleuritic symptoms

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Symptoms to predominate over the hepatic...
Whereas in Countries which are hot and better
suited to the production of miasmatic epidem-
ics, the bilious symptoms commonly hold
the ascendancy, and the disease assumes more
of the typhoid appearance. - In illustration of
this, the disease in the southern States of our own
Country, almost always wears the typhic type,
and is never so inflammatory as it is known
to the North.

This disease we see then, is subject to the
modification of a variety of causes, and it is
in the manner mentioned, that such discrep-
ancy of opinion, was originated concerning it.
Physicians remaining in the dark respecting
its pathology, have accordingly bestowed on
it improper appellations, which are generally
more appropriate of its prevailing type in different
climates, or parts of a Country, than of its real
character.

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Character. Thus many have denominated it
Pneumonæ Syphilitides, where the syphilitic symptoms
were prevalent, believing that the general
effect of the syphilis was always that of
syphilitic fever, which in some cases was attended
with inflammation of the pleura, and in others
of the Brain, or other parts of the body. In the
southern States, where it is usually attended by
violent pain in the head, it is termed by the
Culpa, Pleurosy or the head. It has also been
called by various other names, such as, Syphilitic puer-
perium, Malignant Pleurosy, bilious epidemic
fever and many others, all of which have led
no other tendency, than to involve the subject
in greater obscurity and doubt.—

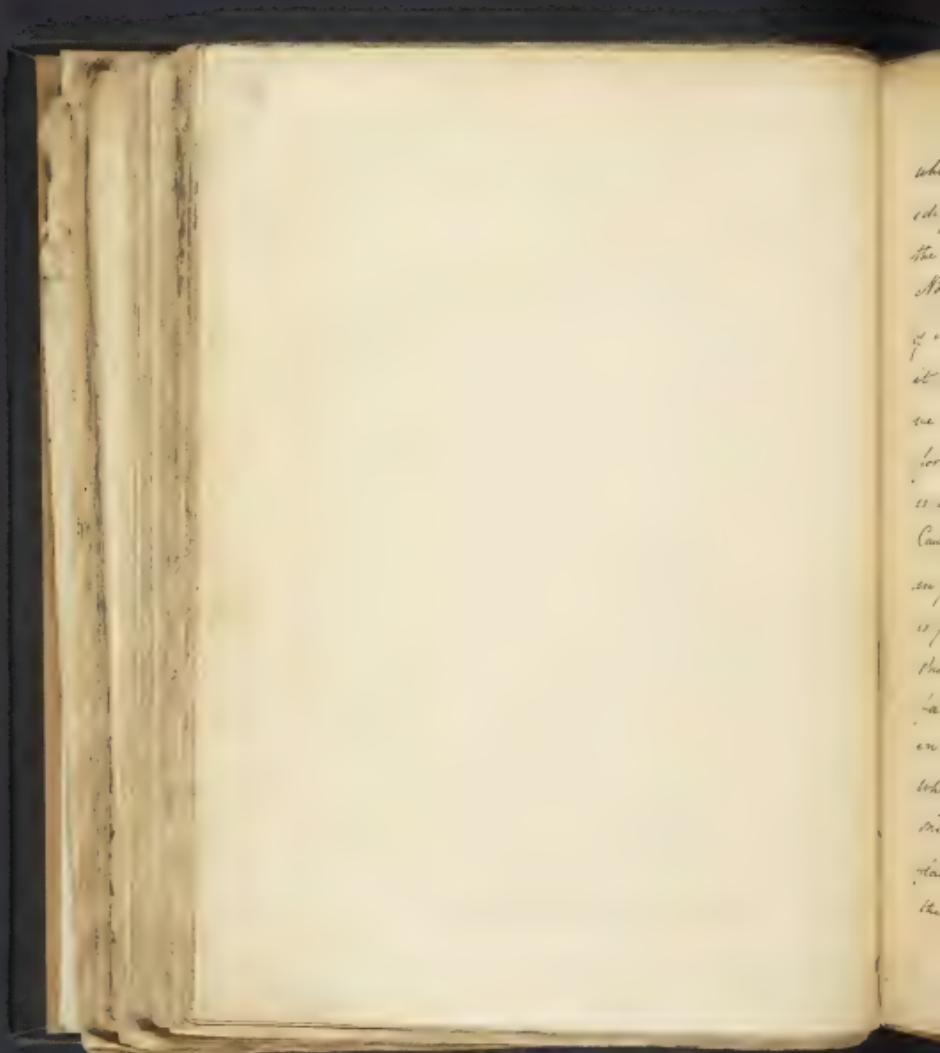
It is this way that we are enabled to account
(perhaps correctly) for a fact which would other-
wise appear almost inexplicable, viz. that a
highly dangerous disease, should have escaped
Coral

coeval with the first Settlements of our Country, and should even now, in this enlightened age, claim with unrestrained and destructive power, its unnumbered victims in a Land, on which the Sun of Medical Science shines with peculiar brightness; and where its benignant rays, are fast dispelling from our glorious Isle, the Clouds which Ignorance, Empiricism, and Superstition have thrown around it:—

[Pathological anatomy] The fact is well known to the sciences, that any irritating Cause, which greatly deranges the stomach and bowels, will ~~cause~~ in many Cases occasion pain in some part of the side. The pain is frequently met with in a slight degree, and unattended by cough or fever, so as scarcely to attract attention. In some instances however, the irritation has proved sufficient to produce all the symptoms of Bronchitis. In confirmation of this, Cases might be cited

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Cited from Authors when such marked symptoms of Pleurisy were induced, by the presence of worms or other irritating matter in the Stomach and intestines. In what manner the symptomatic affection of the pleura is brought on by the irritation of the Stomach and bowels, seems difficult to determine, unless it be accounted for by that intimate sympathetic connection which subsists between the Stomach and all the most important organs of the system. But it is certain that this violent pain, which we have so reason to believe proceeds from inflammation at an early period of the disease, is occasioned by the irritation of the prime visc. as is clearly demonstrated by the fact, that remedies directed to the removal of the offending and irritating matter from the Stomach and bowels, seldom fail to effect a cure, if taken in the commencement, whilst



whilst those directed to the pain itself, as an idiopathic affection are never known to effect the object of their application.

Now when this pain in the side, is the effect of irritation of the prima via caused by Bile, it constitutes the compound disease of which we are speaking, the most appropriate name for which, appears to be *Pneumonia biliosa*, and is therefore, the only one which I shall retain.

(Cause) — That the same cause which operates in producing bilious fevers, (viz marsh effluvia) is principally concerned in the production of *Pneumonia biliosa*, appears evidently from these facts. 1. That the disease is most prevalent in situations (if not entirely confined to them) which are suited to the production of marsh excrementa. For instance, in places which are flat and swampy, such as the low lands on the river courses, and on that account, subject to

to the influence of miasma, when the heat of the sun becomes sufficient to cause its evolution, the inhabitants are annually afflicted with bilious fevers. It is in such situations, that Pneumonia silvosa is known to make its ravages, when the weather becomes sufficiently cold, or its changes sufficiently sudden, to induce the plurius symptoms. And in such situations, when there has been but little sickness during the fall, (unless a greater number have acquired a predisposition, without having disease excited) the ensuing winter disease, is seldom even sporadic, and never epidemic. It is known too, that persons of a bilious habit are who most liable to attacks of fall fever, are most obnoxious to pneumonia silvosa. — Moreover, persons who have suffered from the prevailing fever of the fall, and have been perfectly cured, by copious evacuations of bile, are

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are seldom attacked by the subsequent winter disease; - whereas individuals who have wanted proper evacuation, but have not with certainty recovered with a remaining fibrillary, or lurking predisposition to disease are of all others, most frequently attacked by bilious fevers.

It may appear somewhat unaccountable to many, that this bilious tendency which was excited in the fall, and has been stated above to be the remote cause of the winter disease, should not during the autumnal months terminate in bilious fever; And that after the cold weather has put an end to the unwholesome condition of the atmosphere, it should still remain so long in the system, without displaying its effects. Without entering into further explanation, it need only be said, that many persons are known from their unhealthy habit, occasional fits of vapours, headache, slight pains in different parts

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parts of the body to, to war with this storm, but
 the pale & constant tendency to disease without
 having fever excited, and that the unhealthy
 condition, induced in the hypopistic disease
 does continue the same notwithstanding the cold
 weather. It is certain then that the morbid
 condition of the system, constituting a predisposition
 to disease, may, during the autumnal and even
 winter months, remain in the system unperceived,
 when like a secret and insidious foe, it lurks
 in deceitful quietude, till an exciting cause
 awakes it to deadly, and destructive action.
 [What time] Having seen the manner in
 which the disease takes place in the system, it
 may be well to advert to the time of its greatest
 prevalence. From what has been said concern-
 ing the remote and exciting causes, it appears
 almost a necessary consequence that it should
 prevail, whenever the weather becomes sufficiently
 cold.

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Cold to produce pneumonial affections, - sporadic cases make their appearance sometimes in the latter part of the fall; but it is not until cold weather sets in, that it becomes generally prevalent. - Any effect produced on the system, by a cause operating suddenly, is much greater, than from one, gradually applied. Hence it is, that the disease is more universally felt, when the changes are sudden, than when the weather is uniformly and continued by cold. - And the cases which occur when the air is not affected by such changes, may, in most instances be attributed rather to sudden exposure, than to its low degree of temperature. - When the fall, however has been equable, or the succeeding winter subject to frequent inclemencies, we may expect the disease to be very prevalent. - But it is when both cooperate that it displays itself in all - its

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its violence, and does the work of death with
epidemic fury. As the disease is brought on more
by sudden vicissitudes than low temperature, it
follows, that it must be most prevalent in the
early part of the spring, unless the winter has
been affected by frequent changes --

[in what sense] After what has been said concerning
the effect of marsh effluvia, and the nature
of this disease, I need scarcely state that it must
be chiefly prevalent in situations suited to
their production - and in the vicinity of such
places; for marsh miasma is known to spread
itself to a considerable distance from the
place of its production. - It is on this account
that persons residing in situations which are
considered healthy, but in the immediate neigh-
borhood of flat grounds, are during the even-
ing seldom affected with pronounced vera; they
either contract a bilious predisposition in the

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unhealthy places, or the effluvia is in a dry sea
washed to them.

After stating that the disease prevails
in situations, exposed to the effects of mineral waters,
it is unnecessary to multiply examples. But
this part of the subject, leads me to speak
of the medical topography of the County in
which I reside, and to make a few remarks
relevant to Belvoir Flury, as it is known
with us. —

The town of Port Royal is situated
on the south side of the Rappahannock river,
in an extensive plain, of the most fertile
soil and luxuriant growth. This plain extends
at the back of the town to the distance of a
mile, where it meets with a range of hills which
stretching nearly in a semicircular direction, with
never nearly encircles the plain below. On either
side of the town there is a creak, which arises
from

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from the surrounding hills, and winding in this course, finally met the river at the distance of half a mile from the town. - One of these creeks was formerly completely covered by trees and undergrowth, and the town was at that time resorted to as a healthy situation. - But some years ago one of our most-enterprising enlightened agriculturists, cleared the trees which covered the creek and its marshes, from the sand, with a view to drain its bed. This was successfully done, for a considerable extent, by running two drains across, to prevent the influx of water from the river, enclosing thus a large body of water which was rendered stagnant. - From this description it is plain to every one acquainted with the pathology of bilious fevers, that no country could be better calculated to produce them, and accordingly, ever since the exposure of the creek - and



and its marshy beds, the town and its immediate neighbourhood, have suffered annually from severities of a most violent, and intractable nature. For a year when disease has been almost universally disseminated, (as is now frequently the case,) a large number of the inhabitants must remain prostrated; and therefore liable to pneumonia & bilious when the cold weather commences. And as the weather here is very liable to sudden vicissitudes, during the winter and spring months, the number affected with this disease is often very considerable.

Who are most
likely to be
stricken As a general statement, it may be said that the persons most liable to its attacks, are such as from neglect, or inability to procure assistance, have not been properly cured of the fall fevers, and such as from the nature of their occupations are most exposed to the exciting causes. If these old persons are not

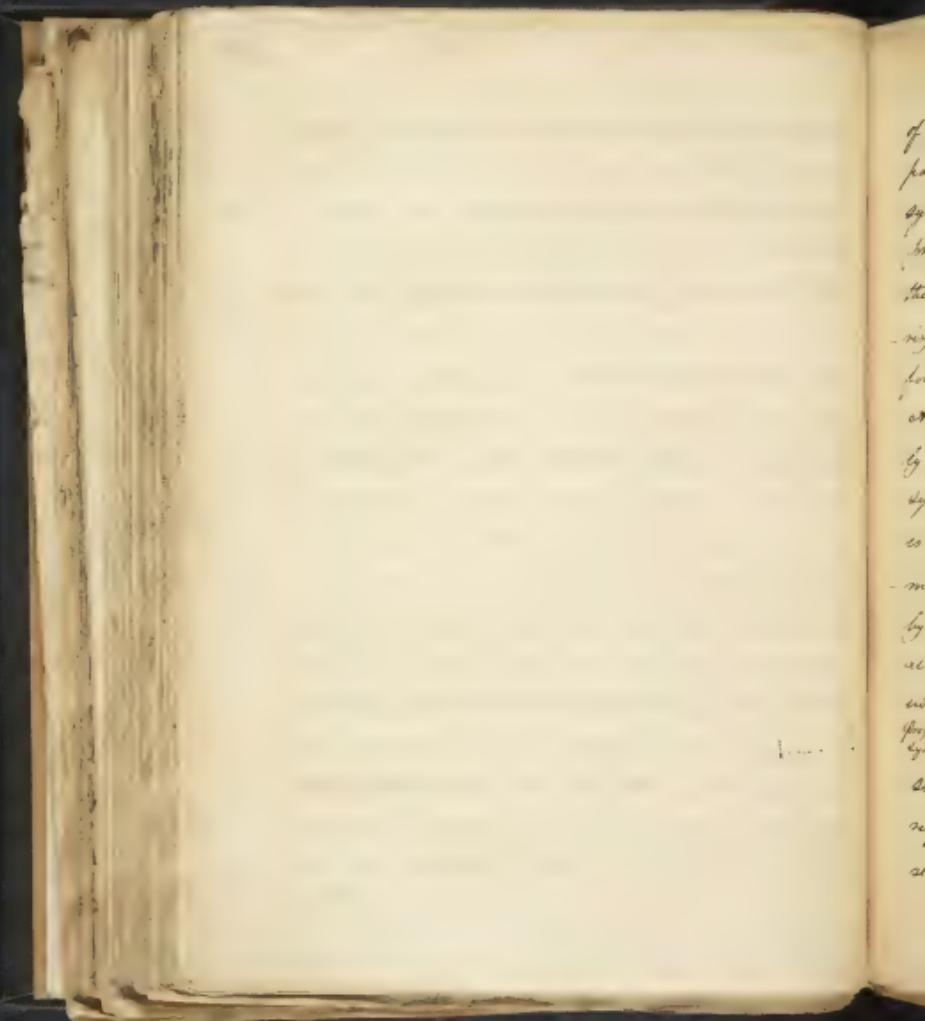
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so liable to the affection, from having become acclimated to the country, and habituated to its diseases. Children are not much exposed to the exciting causes, and even if they were, it is known, that the gradual development of their organs, renders them less susceptible of morbid impressions. It is in men of strong and plethoric habit, and in strangers, who have been exposed to our autumnal diseases, that the complaint is found in its greatest violence.

Diagnosis of Welling's Pneumonia below may be found to exist in almost every grade of action, between Typhus fever and a high ague; yet the Diagnosis is not so difficult as might be supposed. It may generally be accurately distinguished from other cases of symptomatic Pneumonia, with which there is most danger of confounding it, by considering

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— owing attentively the various symptoms which indicate the presence of bilis in the prima via, and by ascertaining that the patient has been formerly subject to bilious affections. The pleuritic symptoms in high and bleak situations, and in negroes, it is true, sometimes predominate so a very great degree—over the hepatic, so as much to resemble Pneumonia vera, — But it may be distinguished from this, by these appearances. The tongue in pneumonia biliosa although sometimes white at the commencement, is almost in every case, even in the incipient stage tinged with yellow, which inclines to deeper hues as the disease progresses, whereas in pneumonia vera it is white. — The bilious pneumonia, on account of the disordered state of the Stomach, is uniformly marked by violent Head aches, Nausea, loss of appetite, swelling of



of the Epigastrium, with pains in different parts of the body as in bilious fever; and these symptoms are known not to characterize pneumonia vera. In pneumonia vera the fever is a high Synochia, - in bilious fever it most commonly assumes the remittent form, with expectorations and remissions and the urine in this complaint is deeply coloured with bile. When the bilious symptoms are most prominent, this disease is readily distinguished from a bilious remittent, to which it bears some resemblance, by considering the exciting cause, the season at which it occurs, and the presence of pain in the side, with dyspnoea and cough.
 [Prognosis] Should the attack be milder and slow in its approach, the headache slight, respiration feeble, with early expectoration, and slight pain in the side, we may expect the disease,

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disease to yield readily to proper examination. But when it comes on suddenly, and with violence, as is sometimes the case, the attack having having been preceded by violent taste, nausea, shivering, and soreness of the right hydrocephalous region, extending up the side to the shoulder, and exceeding these, violent head aches, short, great pain of the side, with dyspepsia and cough, difficult or late expectoration and restlessness, the event must be considered extremely doubtful, but even such cases have been known to yield to proper treatment.—

[Treatment] The general plan of treatment would be a combination of that suited to the disease symptoms and the treatment of the local pleuritic affection. I shall speak first of Bloodletting, because when indicated, it is the first remedy which should be applied.

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-plied, on most instances, as it facilitates, or renders safe the operation of the most important subsequent remedies. And although it has not been considered the principal symptom in this complaint, it is certainly in most cases, an indispensable auxiliary, and is therefore equally entitled to the first place in our Consideration. Moreover it requires the most judicious management, and is therefore more frequently, improperly used than any other remedy.

It is not surprising, that such differences of opinion concerning the use of this remedy, should prevail among practitioners, when we reflect, that in different climates, seasons and situations the liability of the pulmonary organs to take cold inflammation will be different - and we know that the sooner the inflammatory symptoms subside, the earlier should blood be drawn and

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The more effectual is the remedy. - By consulting different authors it may be found that this disagreement has always existed, concerning the severity of convolution in bilious, febrile, &c.

Wynson in speaking of it says, "as such was the rapid progress of these mortal diseases, that of any of them survived the seventh day, it was owing entirely owing to Bleeding, when that after saving tried many other plans of treatment, he found that copious bloodletting and proper evacuations were the most effectual remedies. Others have asserted, that it was improper only at the commencement, probably, because they bled before there was inflammation. I find it is stated in the Edinburgh medical papers, that in this disease which frequently occurred in Fife, when bloodletting was omitted or made very sparingly, and emetics were given in early, and afterwards repeated with sufficient

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-sweats, laxatives, and expectorants the patients generally recovered. Such opinions can not be reconciled without supposing some difference in the forewarning nature of the disease -

That bleeding, when, sometimes very early in the complaint - should in many cases fail to afford relief is not to be wondered at - for we have reason to believe that many draw blood before there is really inflammation - since the following symptoms marked their appearance, accompanied by a sympathetic pain in the side, in some cases a considerable time before there is real inflammation. The proper time for bleeding is whenever the pulse indicates the actual existence of inflammation by its tense and hard beats, and the sooner it is done the better.

The disease here is commonly not as inflammatory as it is found in some of the northern

countries

and easer'd state, and partakes more strongly
of the bilious qualities. Hence it is, that bleed-
ing is often carried too far and the system
becomes prostrated, and unable to bear the circu-
latory necessary for the removal of the operating
and retentive matter, from the stomach and
bowels. It is for this reason that the blood should
be drawn as soon as possible after inflammation
is induced, and even then, it should be slow-
ly, and cautiously taken. The quantity should
be regulated by the effect on the pulse, moni-
toring, that the remedy is necessary, after it
becomes soft and weak. And the brach-
ial pulse will also be directed in this judg-
ment, by the hardness of the spleen to which
the bilious organs are involved; but when much
is to be effected by excretions from the circu-
latory canal, it would certainly be improper to
abstain too largely from the excretions.

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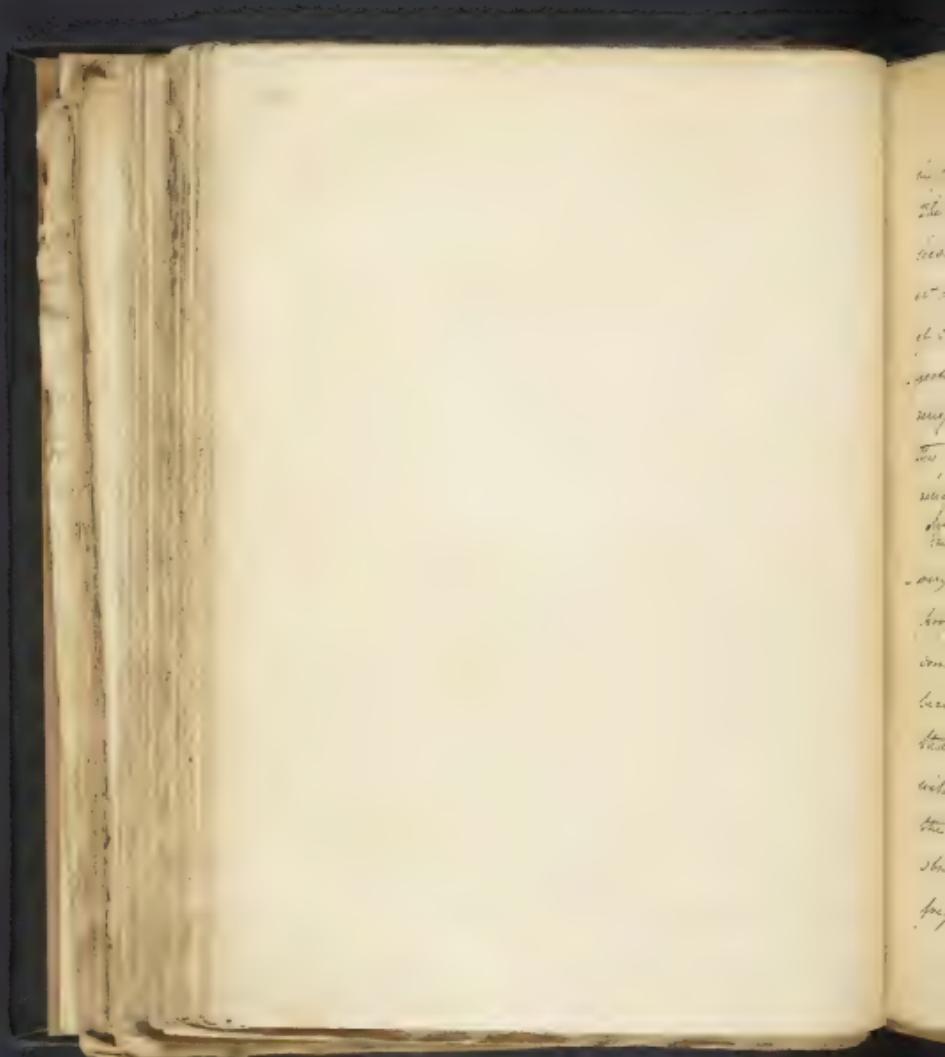
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The pulse in this disease, it is true, is very variable and affords, perhaps, less useful indications than in many others. It has been said "In in, there, and pulmonary inflammationibus, vix respiration silent decipit." But although it may be a worse criterion in this disease than in most others, it still appears to me, to be the best we have, at least as far as regards letting blood, or letting it alone.

It may be stated generally that the disease admits of but little bleeding in the ordinary, frequently of not more than one. But in some few cases it assumes the most violent inflammatory appearance, and then it becomes necessary to detract more freely from the circulation. When the patient's strength becomes so far exhausted as to forbid the further end of general bleeding, the chief reliance for the reduction of the inflammation is to



be placed on topical application and blisters.

The depletions may be performed by cupping or leeches. Many have erroneously contended that it does not diminish the *vis a tergo*; but even if this were true, it certainly eases the contraction of the part, and thus affords great relief. Blisters have always been used in this affection, but they do not afford so much relief as in *truncularis* *dermatitis*.

In rubea. The blood drawn in blisters always appears various appearances as the disease progresses. It is here generally, florid at first commencing, and the *crustaceous* becomes very much confluent - *aphthous* states shall be found often a pale yellow crust, with areas of the same complexion; and the same appearances are frequently to be observed with us. But the changes are very frequent, and I do not know that they progress

-rosis, is much assisted by them. When the disease is very far advanced however, there is sometimes no separation between the epiphyses - tars and tibia, and then there is commonly no hope of a recovery. -

Emetics] After bloodletting, if it has been necessary, the next remedy applied should be an emetic if nothing contraindicates its use. The violent pain in the heart need not be regarded in its administration, as it does not proceed from, hitherto, but from the disordered state of the stomach, as is known, from the sudden relief which is experienced after the operation.—

No one acquainted with the pathology of this complaint, and the modes, peculiarity of sometimes, can deny that they perform if not the most important office in the cure, at least one which is indispensably In

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In the first place, they evacuate the stomach of its noxious contents, and prepare the way for cathartics. And when we consider the danger of a retention of retained or improper matter in an organ of such extensive influence, this effect, must be esteemed of great value.

By their effects on the Stomach a relaxation of the extreme reflex is brought about, whereby contraction is induced, which in this disease, is a result very desirable and highly voluntary. Profpr (Hagman) after speaking of the very intimate connexion which subsists between the stomach and head, and the great utility of emetics in treating affections of the latter, says; "Nor, perhaps, have they a striking affinity to the pulmonary organs. As soon as vomiting takes place, we may remark a copious flow of saliva, and a discharge some or all from the nose-lice, which, when vomiting

vomiting is induced, becomes considerably augmented. In this way expectoration is now noted by them, and an induction of high importance fulfilled. Such effects are sufficient to convince us that emetics are of the greatest utility in the treatment of viscid, bilious and accordingly there are many cases said to have been cured by their sole employment. They may be given as early as possible, under beliefs of the rebels, or other known to him, forbidding bleeding, should in such cases be premised. It seldom happens however that emetics may not be given in the commencement, and even frequently repeated during the complaints, but there are some few cases, in which the high state of action in the lungs and liver, seems to forbid their use. When a full dose is contraindicated a good effect may be derived, from small quantities.

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various administered so as not to excite vomiting. I treated a case thus strong, when the patient who was a strong labourer, had been afflicted for some time before I saw him. As the pain in the side was violent, I cautiously drew about 20 fl. oz. blood, the loss of which he bore badly; and the heart appeared so much enlisted in its action, as to demand stimulants. I placed the chief reliance on small portions of tartar emetic, in combination with Calomel and Camphor. This aided by aperients, expectorants, and the local treatment of the side, afforded him relief and he recovered in a short time. — The appearance of the bile vomited in this disease, are much the same as in bilious fevers.

[Cathartics] When arterial action has been reduced by binding, and the patient is cleared by an emetic, the next remedy which would be most (naturally)

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naturally be suggested is a cathartic; and undoubtedly, no remedy can be more strongly indicated.

In making a proper selection, it should be remembered, that the condition of the alimentary canal is much the same as in bilious fevers. Doctor Cooke of Virginia states, that the treatment necessary to recovery, shewed that the disease was the same with that which prevailed in the summer, with the addition of the plentier symptoms; and that he always found purging as necessary as it was before cold weather, and the evacuations of the same colour and consistence. — As the morbid condition of the hepatic apparatus, causes a situated secretion which must be made to assume a natural appearance before a cure is accomplished, it is evident, that the most important article of his diet is Calomel, which,

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must be given, either alone or in combination, until the effect is produced. The neutral Salts and Salap, so useful in pneumonia vero, seldom answer a good purpose here, except in the more inflammatory cases. The depletion they produce from the blood vessels increases the debility, and exhaustion, which are almost always prominent features in this Malady. Indeed there are many cases where there is so great a prostration of the vis Vite, that stimulant seems to be required from the beginning almost to the exclusion of depletory measures. In such cases slow burping, by Calomel in broken doses, is productive of an admirable effect. In some cases where the typhoid symptoms were alarming, I have known the Camphorated Salap to be given from the commencement, and although the pleuritic affection was distressing no harm was found to result from its use.

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Hysterical Constipation sometimes occurs in this disease, & may be removed by cathartics, such as
by balsmata containing about 3/5 of Gum Arabic.
In very obstinate cases we should resort to cal-
omel, with a view to its alterative effects. Mu-
fiting should be used to assist in the ac-
complishment of the same object.

Anodynes. The only preparation of this kind, which
can be used with propriety in pneumonia bel-
lissa, is the pulvis Dorsorum, which may be given
with good effect, in the dose of twelve or
fifteen grains, when there is much rattling
or cough at night. In most cases it is best
to unite with it a small portion of Calomel.
As an expectorant, a combination of
the Balsm. Scilla, Sp. nitri decolorat, and
muscilage of G. arabic, answers remarkably
well, and is perhaps as good as any other
preparation. It should be taken pro re nata.

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during the complaint. When the patient is convalescent, *Serpentaria* combined with bark is well suited to his condition. It keeps up a gentle and salutary action on the skin and extreme vessels, and act as a wholesome stimulant, to an exhausted system.

I have now given the best description in my power, of the leading characteristic, and treatment of bilious pleurisy. Briefly, because the limits of this essay do not admit of more expansion. Conscious of its imperfections, and anxious to be corrected when I have done, I submit it to the consideration of individuals engaged in the direction of the sublimer study of the human mind; whom before their pupils must ever remember with oblique, and whom names, affected mankind shall recite, with admiration and gratitude.

